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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 /100 W
----------026443 200319Z /14
R 180842Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8480
INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
USUN NEW YORK 2908

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 6161

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: KS, NI, PDIP
SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN VISIT TO NIGERIA

REF: A) LAGOS 2360, B) SEOUL 1294

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.
1. NORTH KOREAN VICE PRESIDENT KANG YANG-UK LEFT LAGOS ON MAY 16 AT THE CONCLUSION OF A FOUR-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO NIGERIA. ASIDE FROM LAGOS, KANG AND HIS 16-MAN DELEGATION VISITED RIVERS STATE WHERE HE TOURED THE RICE PROJECT AT PEREMABIRI BEING DEVELOPED BY NORTH KOREAN EXPERTS.

2. KANG'S ONLY PUBLIC STATEMENT AS REPORTED BY THE PRESS WAS MADE AT HIS AIRPORT DEPARTURE, WHERE HE SAID THAT REUNIFICATION IS THE GREATEST DESIRE OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE. HOWEVER, THE MAIN OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF UNIFICATION IS THE OCCUPATION OF SOUTH KOREA BY IMPERIALIST FORCES. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, KANG SAID THE STRUGGLE WOULD CONTINUE DESPITE "PLOTS AND WARLIKE PROVOCATIONS"
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AND "DESPERATE MANEUVERING" BY THE IMPERIALISTS.

3. KANG WAS HOSTED FOR MUCH OF HIS VISIT BY HIS COUNTERPART, CHIEF OF STAFF BRIGADIER YAR'ADUA. IN PRESS REPORTS OF HIS REMARKS AT A DINNER FOR KANG, YAR'ADUA NOTED THE STRIDES IN DEVELOPMENT MADE BY THE KOREAN PEOPLE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP

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OF KIM II-SONG AND REITERATED NIGERIA'S POLICY
OF STEADFASTNESS WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION IN
THE KOREAN PENINSULA. YAR'ADUA REPORTEDLY SAID,
"THIS POLICY IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-
INTERFERENCE BY OUTSIDE POWERS IN THE DESIRE AND
SEARCH FOR PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF KOREA."

4. NO NEW AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED. HOWEVER YAR'ADUA
SAID THE VISIT ENABLED/THE TWO COUNTRIES TO WIDEN
THE/POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK
OF THE EXISTING AGREEMENT ON TRADE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS,
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CULTURE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL.
5. COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT YAR'ADUA'S REMARKS
REFLECT A CONTINUING NIGERIAN PREDISPOSITION (REF A)
TO LINK IN THEIR OWN MINDS WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN
TROOPS WITH ANY POSSIBLE RECOGNITION OF THE
ROK.
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